



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Seasoned Educators Appointed to Co-Chair  
Committee on Accreditation**

SACRAMENTO -- The Commission on Teacher Credentialing's (Commission) Committee on Accreditation (COA) elected two seasoned educators to co-chair the committee for 2008-09: Ruth Sandlin, Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology at California State University (CSU), San Bernardino; and Nancy Watkins, teacher at Valencia High School in Fullerton. The COA is a statutory committee appointed by the Commission and charged with deciding the initial and continuing accreditation of educator preparation programs.

"Accreditation" is the approval process that all educator preparation programs undergo to license educators in California. The revised educator preparation accreditation system focuses on demonstrated competence of California's educators. The system features ongoing data collection and a 7-year cycle of activities, including at least one site visit. The Commission's Committee on Accreditation can determine at any point if program intervention or assistance is needed. The accreditation system's success is measured by the continuing viability of programs that produce effective educators for California's students.

**Sandlin, of San Bernardino**, chairs the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling at CSU, San Bernardino; a position she has held for the last 9 years. Sandlin co-directed a new teacher project in Fontana Unified School District from 1989 to 1992. She also serves as a trainer and University coordinator of the Riverside, Inyo, Mono, San Bernardino County Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program (RIMS BTSA). Sandlin received her BA, MA, and Ph.D. from University of California, Riverside. The emphases of her graduate degrees were in educational psychology.

**Watkins, of Yorba Linda**, is a high school social science teacher with 21 years of experience in the classroom. Currently teaching Advanced Placement Government, Economics, and Philosophy, she has been recognized as teacher of the year at Valencia High School in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Watkins received her BA from UC Santa Barbara, in political science, MA in public policy from Claremont Graduate University, and Doctorate in Educational leadership from UC Irvine.